

wash our hands of this program as far as the state is concerned and, Senator Rod Johnson, to be honest with you, there are several options here we can take. The one option we have, when no one wants to talk about it, is just abandoning an entire program...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...saying the heck with it, we can't control it. I suggest that what we're doing here and with 138, and I can see why Senator Rod Johnson and the Speaker weren't anxious to put the bill up, is we are saying, well, we are going to shove it off on the counties, we're going to give them a little extra responsibility, make sure the county weed superintendent knows what he is doing out there, can tell a musk thistle from a Canadian thistle, but we are not going to put any money into it, we want to exempt ourselves from liability. Who is going to exempt the county board? Now, if this bill advances, I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I am going to say, add a little amendment on there, also, that says the county board shall be responsible and shall be removed from office if they don't carry out their responsibility. How many of you want to go back to your own home county with that little amendment on there? What we ought to do, what we ought to do, the Attorney General ought to be removed from office for not enforcing his responsibility for the last 20 years.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'd suggest you take a good look at this bill, ladies and gentlemen, and decide where the money is going to come from on the local level. That is what we ought to be looking at. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Schmit, as always, has raised some legitimate points and concerns with this program, as well as other bills that we've discussed. As a young man growing up, like I assume many of you that come from the rural areas, I spent a lot of summers with a hoe or a shovel out in the pasture chopping musk thistle and, unfortunately, all I got out of it was a lot of calluses because they seemed to be overrunning most of the rural areas but we, at least, made a valid effort to try and control the weeds. And I think that our counties are doing the best that they can do and they are, for